

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FITZGERALD SPEECH TO NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

1. IN MARCH 18 SPEECH TO NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, CARRIED
OVER NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER
FITZGERALD GAVE GENERAL REVIEW OF IRELAND'S DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMY, ROLE IN EC, AND VIEWS ON NORTHERN IRELAND. HE
ALSO REFERRED TO IRISH CASE AGAINST UK AT EUROPEAN HUMAN
RIGHTS COURT, SAYING CASE HAS BEEN ABUSED BY SOVIET
MEDIA TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM PROBLEM OF DISSIDENTS
IN USSR.

2. FITZGERALD SAID IT IS IMPORTANT, "AND IN THIS
PRESIDENT CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE FULLY AGREE
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WITH ME," THAT GOVERNMENTS, LEGISLATORS AND PUBLIC BE ON
GUARD AGAINST THOSE WHO ABUSE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
ATTEMPTS MADE IN WASHINGTON IN RECENT WEEKS "BY A FEW
SUPPORTERS OF A CAMPAIGN OF MURDER AND DESTRUCTION
IN IRELAND" TO REPRESENT SELVES AS CHAMPIONS OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN IRELAND. THESE FEW, THROUGH BLATANT DISTORTION
OF UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO DECEIVE MOST OF THOSE IN

NEW ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS THEY SOUGHT TO CONTACT,
TRIED TO REPRESENT SELVES AND PROVISIONAL IRA AS HAVING

SECURED A DEGREE OF SUPPORT "IN THE CAPITAL OF THE MOST
POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE WEST." THEIR EFFORTS DID NOT RPT
NOT SUCCEED, BUT THEY MISREPRESENTED THEIR LACK OF
SUCCESS TO THE IRISH PEOPLE.

3. FITZGERALD SAID MOST FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT IS RIGHT
TO LIVE AND THOSE WHO DENY THAT RIGHT, AND THOSE WHO
SUPPORT THEM BY SPECIOUS ARGUMENTS, DESERVE NO HEARING FROM
PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL. "I AM DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO TELL
YOU AND THE IRISH PEOPLE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND THE
LEADERSHIP OF THE US CONGRESS HAVE ASSURED ME THAT THEY
FULLY SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE." FITZGERALD
SAID IRISH PEOPLE GREATLY MOVED BY STATEMENT ON PEACE
AND END TO SUPPORT FOR VIOLENCE IN IRELAND MADE MARCH 17
BY SENATORS KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN, SPEAKER O'NEILL AND
GOVERNOR CAREY. (TEXT SENT SEPTTEL).

4. RESPONDING TO QUESTION, FITZGERALD SAID HE HAD
ACQUAINTED PRESIDENT CARTER WITH IRISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS
ON NORTHERN IRELAND. THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED
HIS ABHORRENCE OF VIOLENCE, HIS OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS
IN US TO SUPPORT VIOLENCE, AND HIS DESIRE FOR A NEGOTIATED
SOLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND. FITZGERALD SAID IRELAND
NOT RPT NOT SEEKING INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THIS ISSUE
SINCE UK AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS SINCE 1972 HAD COMMON
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PERCEPTION OF PROBLEM AND AGREED DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT
IN NORTHERN IRELAND MUST BE BASED ON POWER-SHARING.
SHOULD UK CEASE SUPPORT FOR POWER-SHARING OR ABANDON ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, INVOLVEMENT
OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY.
HE EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR "GENEROUS" USG
SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND OPPOSITION TO
VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND REFERRED TO FORD-
COSGRAVE COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 18, 1976 AND VANCE-FITZGERALD
JOINT PRESS STATEMENT OF MARCH 17, 1977 IN THIS CONTEXT.
HE SAID ONLY TINY FRACTION OF IRISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
SENDS GUNS OR FUNDS TO PROVISIONAL IAR BUT EVEN THIS
NUMBER WILL BE REDUCED IF SUPPORTERS WILL UNDERSTAND
THEY ARE ONLY HELPING IRISHMEN TO KILL OTHER IRISHMEN
AND DELAYING DAY WHEN "BOTH PARTS OF IRELAND COME
TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP."
VANCE

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